

Message Text

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12

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 NEA-07 EUR-08 EA-06 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 L-01 SP-02 MMS-01 IO-03

PRS-01 SAM-01 SSO-00 /062 W

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O R 290820Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2916

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY LONGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0769

LIMDIS

MILITARY FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SO, SO

SUBJECT: SOMALIA AND DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 123690

1. SOMALIA IS OPPOSED TO DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION. IN SPEECH TO OAU SUMMIT IN JUNE, 1974, PRESIDENT SIAD EXPRESSED CONCERN AT QTE ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVAL BASES IN DIEGO GARCIA UNQTE AND CALLED UPON QTE IMPERIALIST POWERS TO REFRAIN FROM CREATION OF ANY BASES UNQTE AND TO IMMEDIATELY REMOVE QTE ANY THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED UNQTE0

2. PRIVATE GSDR POSITION DOES NOT RPT NOT DIFFER. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR KIRK IN JUNE 1974 (MOODISCIO 993, DATED JUNE 25 1974) PRES. SIAD SAID GSDR THOUGHT IT UNWISE FOR US TO CONSTRUCT QTE NUCLEAR BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA UNQTE. SOMALIA HAD MADE NO RPT NO FORMAL PROTEST REGARDING DIEGO GARCIA BUT WANTED US GIVE UP PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA BASE CONSTRUCTION. WE SEE NO REASON SIAD POSITION
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COULD NOT RPT NOT BE ALLUDED TO IN OPEN TESTIMONY.

3. IN UNGA STATEMENT ON OCTOBER 9, 1974, SIAD REFERRED TO QTE NATO BASE UNQTE IN INDIAN OCEAN AND ASKED QTE ALL POWERS WITH BASES THERE UNQTE TO DISMANTLE THEM. HE WAS TALKING ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA. (SIAD HOWEVER DID NOT RPT NOT RAISE SUBJECT IN HIS SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 11, 1974).

4. POSITIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, REMAIN INTACT, ALTHOUGH SOMALI OFFICIALS HAVE NOT RPT NOT ALLUDED TO DIEGO GARCIA IN SPECIFIC TERMS IN RECENT MONTHS. GSDR MEDIA -- OFFICIAL DAILY OKTOBER STAR AND RADIO MOGADISCIO -- HAS TALKED OF DIEGO GARCIA IN ATTEMPTING DENY ALLEGATIONS OF SOVIET BASES AND/OR INSTALLATIONS IN SOMALIA. MEDIA VIEWS SOVIET BASE CHARGES AS ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY IMPERIALIST QTE NUCLEAR UNQTE BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA. SECDEF GENERAL SAMANTAR TOOK THIS PGSITION IN INTERVIEW WITH CAIRO'S ROSE AL YUSUF IN JANUARY 1975.

5. SOMALI MEDIA HAS ALSO TAKEN LINE THAT DIEGO GARCIA IS INTENDED TO (A) INTIMIDATE NEWLY FORMED SOCIALIST STATES IN AREA AND ISOLATE THEM FROM OUTSIDE WORLD; (B) DEFEND RACIST REGIMES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA; AND (C) DEFEND ISRAEL'S INTERESTS.

6. SIAD'S PERCEPTION OF DIEGO GARCIA -- AND THAT OF KEY MINDEF OFFICIALS AS WELL -- IS STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY SOVIET ADVISORY EFFORT HERE. WE WOULD PRESUME MOREOVER THAT THERE IS NOW NO SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOVIET PROPAGANDA BEAMED FOR ASIAN AND AFRICAN THIRD WORLD AUDIENCES REGARDING DIEGO GARCIA AND SIAD'S OWN VIEW. GOING BEYOND THAT, WE ALSO SUSPECT THAT SOMALI CONSENT TO INCREASED SOVIET PRESENCE AND FACILITIES HERE IS LINKED IN PART TO USE SOVIETS HAVE MADE OF DIEGO GARCIA AS THREAT TO PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST REGIMES -- LIKE SIAD'S -- ON AFRICAN LITTORAL. WE SUSPECT THAT CHRONOLOGY OF NAVY PROPOSALS FOR DIEGO GARCIA, BEGINNING WITH 1970 CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF FIRST INCREMENT OF US\$ 5.4 MILLION IN FUNDING, HAS HAD MORE SIGNIFICANCE FOR GREATER SOVIET ROLE IN SOMALIA AND SIAD'S RECEPTIVITY TO MOSCOW'S MILITARY AND POLITICAL STEWARDSHIP THAN IS COMMONLY BELIEVED. ONE BIT OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE FOR OUR SUSPICIONS IS SAM-2 INSTALLATIONS IN MOGADISCIO, WHOSE PRACTICAL MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE IS DIFFICULT TO RATIONALIZE OTHERWISE.

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7. FINALLY, ONE REASON SIAD AND OTHER GSDR LEADERS HAVE NOT RPT NOT REFERRED RECENTLY TO DIEGO GARCIA IN SPECIFIC TERMS MAY BE THAT US BASE THERE, AND PERCEIVED THREAT THAT IMPLIES, IS NOW SUBSUMED BY MORE GENERALIZED ABSTRACTION CALLED QTE IMPERIALIST THREATS OR MACHINATIONS UNQTE.

HAMRICK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, DIEGO GARCIA, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOGADI00769
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750187-0918
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975059/aaaaaidv.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 123690
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMALIA AND DIEGO GARCIA
TAGS: MARR, SO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006